Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

I'M THE POP IDOL AND FORMER HIGH SCHOOL GIRL, ENA TAKAHASHI.
THE AMERICAN MULTI-MILLIONAIRE JAMES AMEKARI-SAN...
...SAW TALENT AND PROMISE IN ME.

TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING.

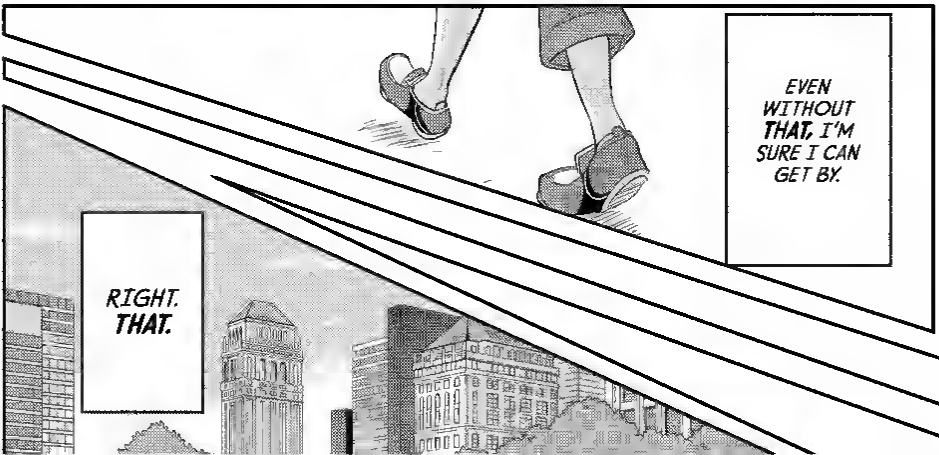
CHAPTER 68: TAKAHASHI-SAN AND THE CHANCE RESEMBLANCE

AND SO, TO BECOME MORE THAN JUST AN IDOL...
...I'VE TRAVELLED FAR FROM HOME, ON MY OWN, TO THIS VAST COUNTRY TO BECOME A REAL STAR.
I'M HERE IN PREPARATION FOR MY INTERNATIONAL DEBUT.
GOODNESS, ENA-SAMA

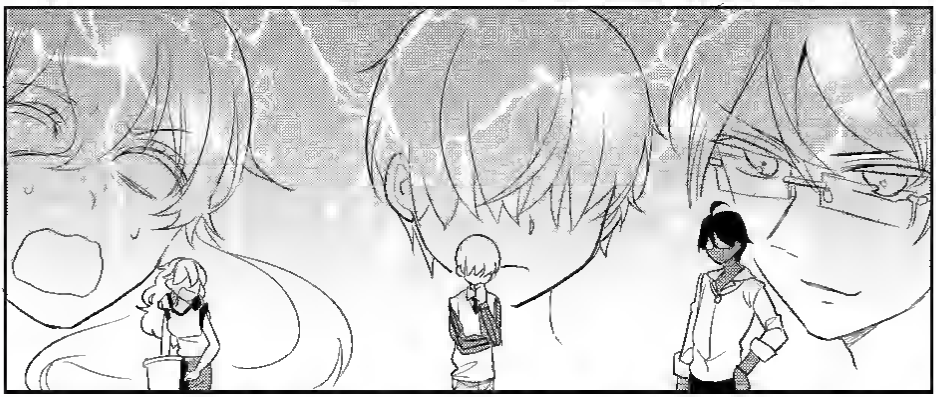
YU HOKUO

SPARKLE SPARKLE
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN TOP FORM AGAIN TODAY!
YUP!
I HAVEN'T SEEN A NATURAL GENIUS LIKE THIS SINCE GAGARIN
HER PHYSICAL ABILITY IS LIKE NEIL ARM-STRONG'S!
HEH HEH

YOU'VE BEEN MAKING GOOD HEADWAY IN YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES TOO.
YOU JUST KEEP BLASTING THROUGH THOSE LANGUAGE BARRIERS!
GOSH, EVEN I'M SURPRISED
I GUESS IT'S TRUE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO.


EVEN WITHOUT THAT, I'M SURE I CAN GET BY.
RIGHT. THAT.

IF I CAN'T EAVES-DROP..
BLEEER-RGH!
I'LL DIE!
QUITTING COLD TURKEY MADE ME WORRY ABOUT GOING INTO ACTUAL WITH-DRAWAL
HOW COULD I DO ALL THIS IF I HAD ENDED UP WRITHING IN MISERY?
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT SCARED ME.
EAVES-DROPPING.
BY THAT, I MEAN MY SHAMEFUL...
...YET NOW NOSTALGIC HOBBY
POP CORN
POP CORN
BUT IN THE END, NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED.
I WONDER... WITH THINGS GOING THIS WAY,
WILL I FULLY ADJUST TO LIFE WITHOUT EAVES-DROPPING ONE DAY?
I'M ALREADY BEGIN-NING TO FORGET...
...NARA-KUN AND MIKAGE-KUN'S FACES.

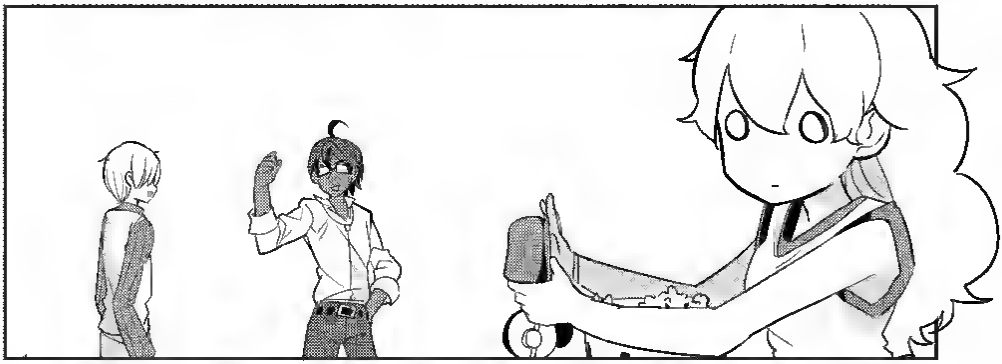


HEY, MICK
HELLO, NAYLOR
NO, ON CLOSER INSPECTION
THEY'RE DIFFERENT!

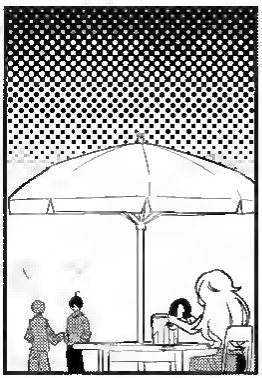
WHA...
WHAT ARE NARA-KUN AND MIKAGE-KUN DOING IN AMERICA?!

BUT THE RESEMBLANCE IS UNCANNY!
I'VE HEARD OF THIS, BUT...
TALK ABOUT A DEAD RINGER!
NAYLOR, YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING INTERESTING TO TALK ABOUT TODAY?
INDEED.
A SUPER SPECIAL AMERICAN STYLE JOKE, MICK.
!
SO AN INTERESTING STORY, HUH?
NOW EVEN MY INTEREST IS PIQUED!
I MEAN, I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING!
NO, WAIT WAIT WAIT.
THEY'RE STRANGERS THAT JUST HAPPEN TO RESEMBLE THEM!
WHISH
IT'S A TALE OF A SINKING SHIP
GO ON
I DON'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE AT ALL!
IT WOULD BE RUDE!
MOREOVER
I'VE ALREADY QUIT EAVESDROPPING!
IN ORDER TO GET SOME PASSENGERS TO JUMP OVERBOARD
...THE CAPTAIN SAID THE FOLLOWING:

"BE A HERO!"
GET IT?!
HA HA! THAT'S GREAT.
ANY AMERICAN WOULD JUMP OVERBOARD WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT



WHAT?! THAT'S IT?!
THERE'S NO SURPRISE OR ANYTHING?!
ズボッ
SMOOSH



IT WAS SUPER STRAIGHT-FORWARD!
AS STRAIGHT AND PLAIN AS DESERT HIGHWAYS IN AMERICA!
RIGHT, MICK?
THAT WAS FULL WITH LOTS OF TWISTS AND TURNS, NAYLOR.

...HAD A COMEBACK LIKE, "SO IT GOES STRAIGHT FROM RAISING THE CURTAIN TO CURTAIN CALL?!"
...AND NEARLY BLOWN MY COVER.
SMACK
I-IF THAT HAD BEEN NARA-KUN...
HE WOULD HAVE SAID, "SO EVERYONE JUMPED OVER-BOARD!"
...ALL OF A SUDDEN...
AND I WOULD HAVE...

NAY-LOR...
I'LL JUST LISTEN IN FOR A BIT.
THE STORY GROWS FROM HERE, RIGHT?
YEAH, OF COURSE!

THERE'S MORE?
OH!
SO ANY-WAY..

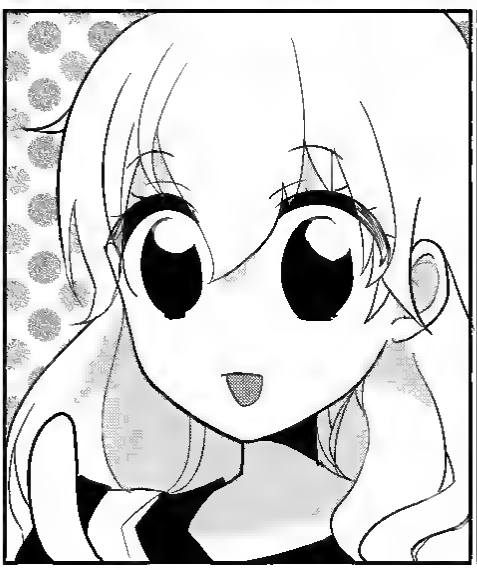
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR LUNCH?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE JOKE?!
WAIT WAIT WAIT!
I JUST DECIDED TO LISTEN IN!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME! YOU ARE GOING TO BUILD ON THIS, RIGHT?
I WANT BURGERS.
I WANT SUSHI.
THEY'RE DONE WITH IT!
THAT REALLY WAS THE WHOLE JOKE.
IT'S ALREADY JUST A DISTANT MEMORY FOR THEM.

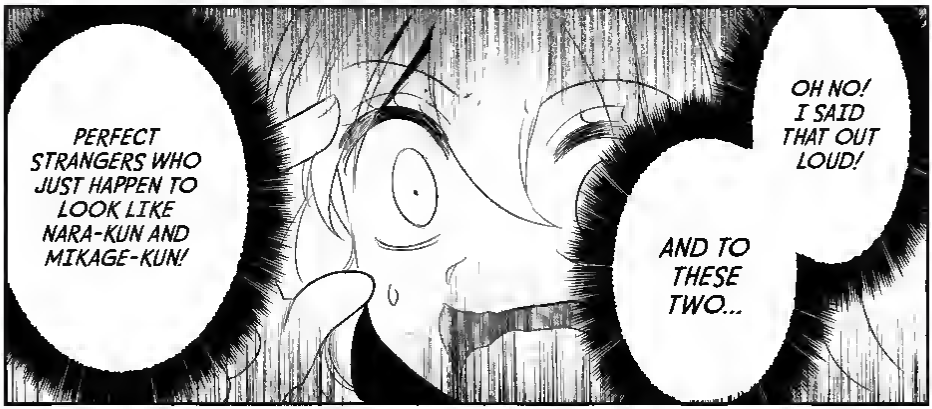
IF THAT HAD BEEN MIKAGE-KUN...
HE'D MAKE SOME SORT OF JOKE ABOUT AMERICAN STYLE JOKES
HE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "IT'LL BE AN EPIC THAT LASTS ABOUT TWO AND A HALF HOURS."
AND THEN I'D BE ALL LIKE...
"YOU MAY AS WELL JUST SHOOT FOR THREE...
"AND MAKE IT A TWO-PART MOVIE!"
HE'D GIVE ME AN OPPOR-TUNITY FOR A GREAT RETORT LIKE THAT!
DO YOUR JOB PROP-ERLY!
SPEAK-ING OF...
OH!
IS IT FINALLY GOING TO GO SOME-WHERE?
IS THIS WHERE IT PICKS UP?
UP UNTIL NOW, IT'S JUST BEEN A HUGE FARCE, RIGHT?
THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM...
YOU KNOW...
I'LL JUST LISTEN IN A LITTLE BIT LONGER.

SUSHI IS PRETTY TASTY.
IT SURE IS.
HEY!
?!
AT
AT
AT LEAST COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF SETUP!
YOU GET ME? SETUP IS IMPORTANT!
I DON'T SAY "I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING" FOR NOTHING!
IT MEANS SOME-THING.
THEY'RE WORDS THAT WEIGH ON THE SOUL!
THEY COME FROM THE HEART!
THAT'S WHY!

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU'RE TELLING AN AMERICAN JOKE, IT SHOULD BE ONE WHERE...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP LAUGH-ING OUT LOUD.
ALL WHO WITNESS IT WILL BE IN AN UPROAR.
YOU'LL LAUGH YOURSELF INTO CONVUL-SIONS.
THE BE-ALL-END-ALL, PENULTIMATE AMERICAN STYLE JOKE...
YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO TELL SOMETHING ON THAT LEVEL! BRING IT! TRY HARDER!
AND THEN...

"IF YOUR AMERICAN STYLE JOKE IS SO GREAT THAT IT WOULD MAKE ANYONE LAUGH THEMSELVES TO DEATH...
"THEN AS SOON AS YOU THOUGHT IT, YOU WOULD DIE FROM LAUGHTER YOURSELF!"
I WOULD HAVE A COME-BACK LIKE THAT!



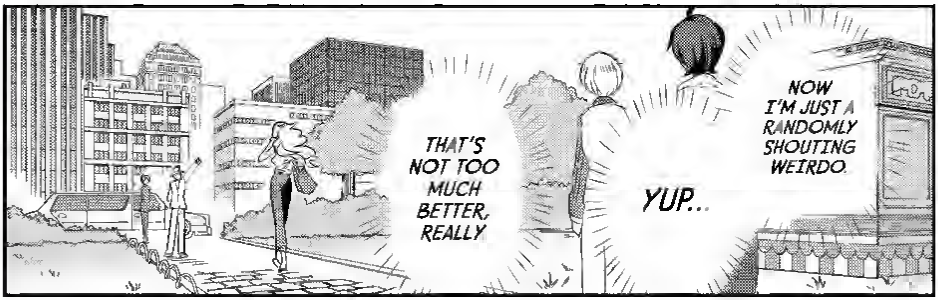

PERFECT STRANGERS WHO JUST HAPPEN TO LOOK LIKE NARA-KUN AND MIKAGE-KUN!
OH NO! I SAID THAT OUT LOUD!
AND TO THESE TWO...

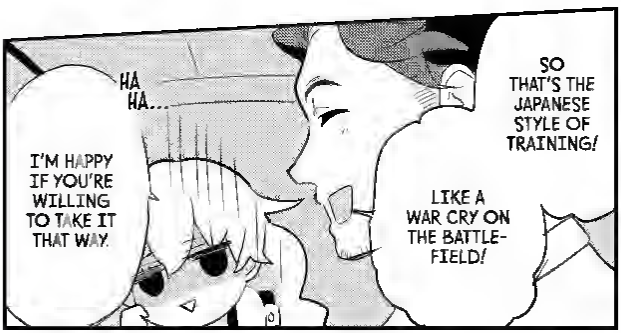
UGH I BET THEY'LL CALL THE POLICE
WAIT
WAIT

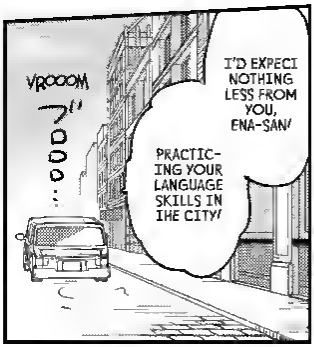
THEY WERE JUST HAVING A NORMAL CONVER-SATION!
AND I JUST SUDDENLY BARGED IN, TELLING THEM TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE INTER-ESTING!
JUST HOW MUCH OF A DEGEN-ERATE AM I?!

I WONDER HOW OF BAD A CRIME EAVESDROP-PING IS IN AMERICA...
WHAT IF IT'S A SERIOUS FELONY?

OH!
WHAT A RELIEF! I ACCIDENTALLY SPOKE IN JAPANESE.
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I SAID!
ENGLISH, PLEASE.

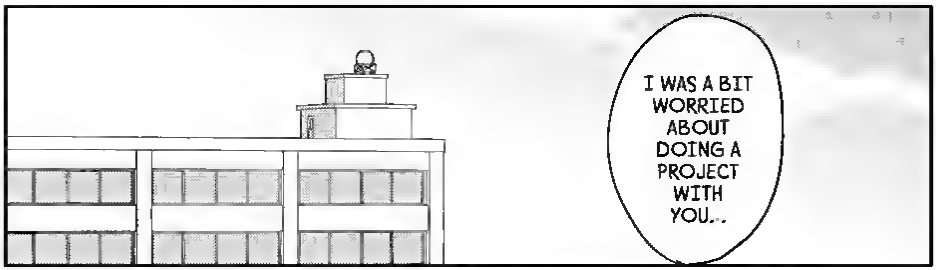

THAT'S NOT TOO MUCH BETTER, REALLY
YUP...
NOW I'M JUST A RANDOMLY SHOUTING WEIRDO.


HA HA...
I'M HAPPY IF YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE IT THAT WAY.
SO THAT'S THE JAPANESE STYLE OF TRAINING!
LIKE A WAR CRY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD!


VROOOM
I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM YOU, ENA-SAN!
PRACTIC-ING YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS IN THE CITY!

TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING.

I WONDER IF THEY'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT INTEREST-ING THINGS WHILE I'M NOT AROUND
I WONDER IF THE REAL NARA-KUN AND MIKAGE-KUN ARE DOING WELL.
...



BUT IT TURNED OUT PRETTY INTER-ESTING, DIDN'T IT?
I MEAN THIS ABSTRACT PAINT-ING.
IT'S A LAND-SCAPE.
THAT'S A TREE.
THIS SUSHI IS PRETTY WELL DONE.

English Digital Edition
Chapter 068

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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